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Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Report of the Drafting Committee

Addendum

Role of national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights

The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 33/46 of 14 December 1978 setting out the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the principles relating to the status of national institutions annexed to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/54 of 3 March 1992,

Recalling the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which, in article 26, requests all States parties to allow the establishment of national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights and to strengthen relevant existing institutions,

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Emphasizing the role of national institutions in the promotion and dissemination of human rights, both individual and collective,

1. Notes with satisfaction the establishment in some African countries of national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of human rights;

2. Encourages States to be guided by the principles of General Assembly resolution 33/46 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/54 in establishing, within the framework of their national legislation, national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

3. Encourages all States Members of the United Nations, along with the States of the African region, to establish and promote the exchange of information and experience relating to the creation and strengthening of national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of human rights;

4. Reaffirms the importance of national institutions in contributing to the democratic process and to the strengthening of the rule of law and in providing, on an advisory basis, views, recommendations, proposals and reports concerning all matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, by inter alia:

(a) Advising on the adoption and harmonization of national legislation, regulations and practices with the international human rights instruments;

(b) Providing views, suggestions and recommendations in connection with claims or complaints concerning human rights violations brought to their notice;

(c) Making proposals for practical measures to be taken by Governments and competent authorities to ensure conformity between practice and legal regulations;

(d) Contributing to the preparation of reports to be submitted by States to United Nations organs and committees, in compliance with their treaty obligations;

5. Encourages the national institutions of States of the African region to cooperate with the organizations of the United Nations system, regional institutions and national institutions of other countries with competence in the promotion and protection of human rights;

6. Calls for the strengthening of cooperation between national institutions of the African region;

7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to consider favourably applications for assistance made by African Member States regarding the creation and strengthening of national institutions within the framework of the United Nations programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights.